



# **PSC NEWS**

## **Missouri Public Service Commission**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CENTURYTEL TO LOWER BASIC MONTHLY TELEPHONE RATES UNDER PRICE CAP FILING**

JEFFERSON CITY--CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC will lower the basic monthly telephone rates of its customers under price cap filings that take effect on October 1, 2005. In addition, the filings call for a reduction in the access rates that long-distance carriers pay to CenturyTel for access to the CenturyTel telephone network to complete a long-distance call. The filings include increases, of up to five percent, on a number of nonbasic telephone services including customer calling services (such as call forwarding and call waiting), directory listings, operator and directory services and toll calling plans.

Under the CenturyTel filings, residential basic monthly telephone rates will drop by between 20 cents and 24 cents a month depending on the customer's rate group. Current residential basic monthly telephone rates range from \$9.13 a month to \$11.04 a month depending on the rate group. For business customers, rates will drop by between 33 cents and 41 cents a month depending on the customer's rate group. Current business basic monthly telephone rates range from \$15.37 a month to \$19.21 a month depending on the rate group. These reductions reflect a change in the consumer price index for telecommunications services.

A 1996 state law gives price cap telecommunications companies such as CenturyTel the ability to adjust rates with limited Commission oversight.

CenturyTel provides telecommunications service to approximately 96 exchanges in Missouri.